

# **Skeleton Keys: Bodies, the Archive, and Lived Lives**

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Madeleine Mant

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*Lecture Me!*

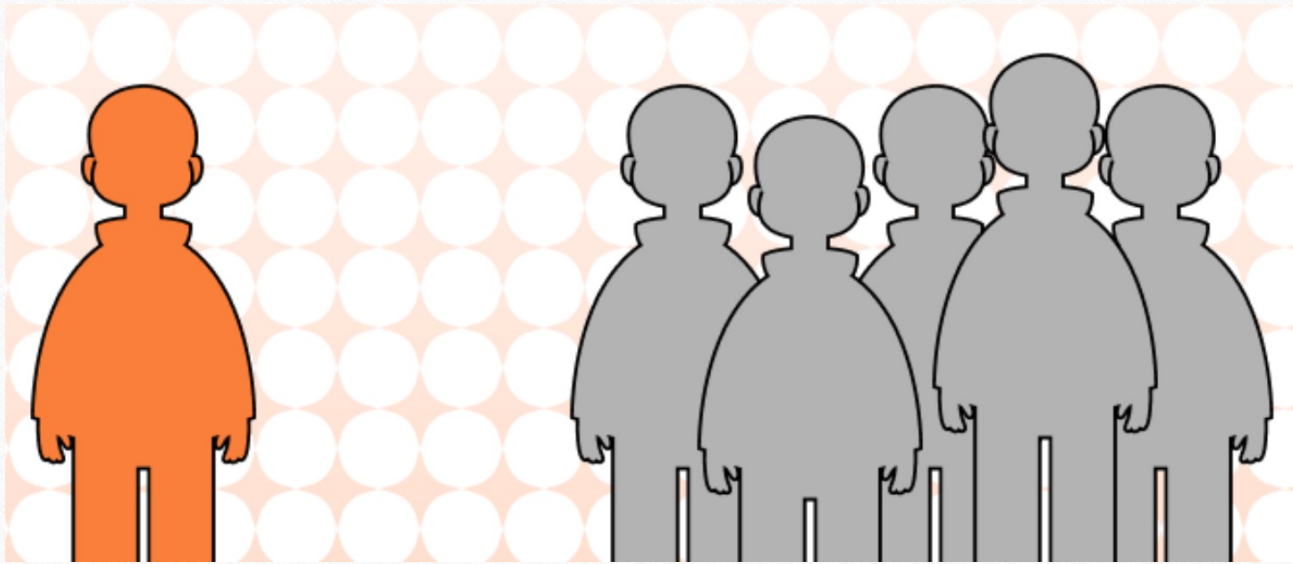
October 8, 2024

# Content Warning

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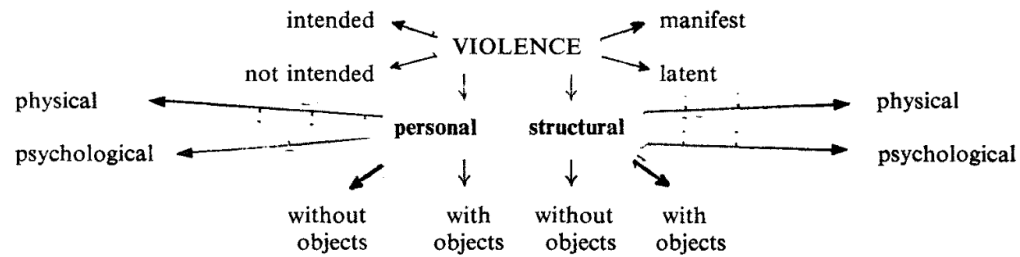
- This presentation contains photographic images of human skeletons and previously published early 20<sup>th</sup>-century photographs of institutionalized individuals. Please engage with care.

# Marginalization

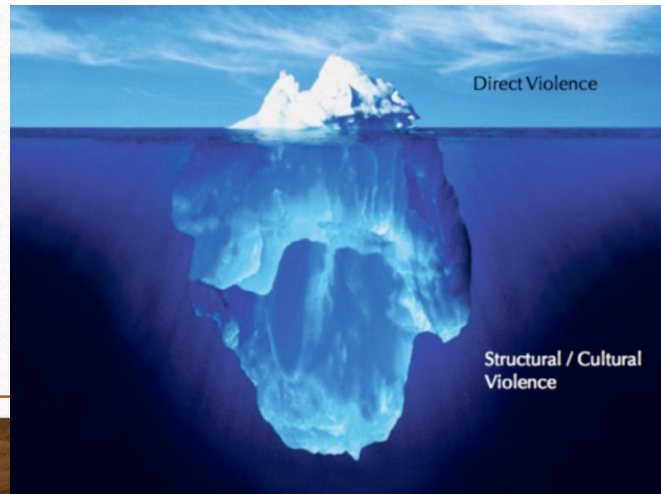


# Structural Violence

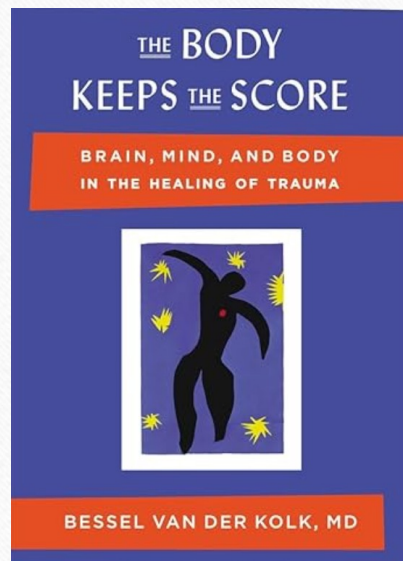
Figure 1. *A Typology of Violence*



Institutions



# Embodiment

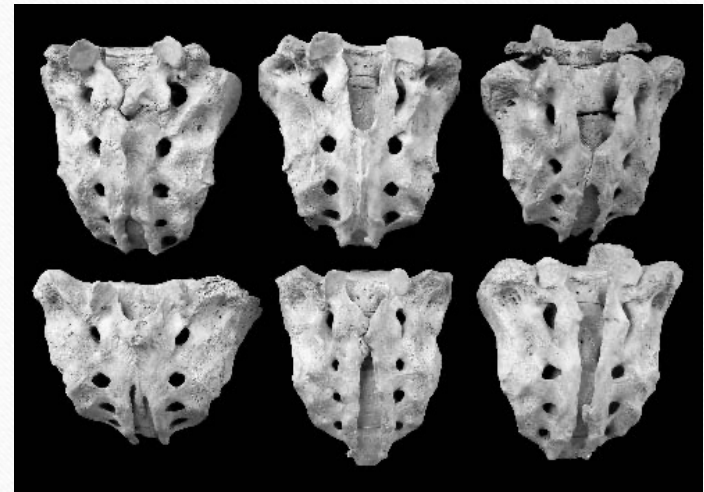


# Stories from the Skeleton

- **Stress**
- **Congenital conditions**
- Dental disease
- Metabolic & endocrine disease
- Joint disease
- Infectious disease
- Neoplastic disease
- Trauma



Linear enamel hypoplasia



Spina bifida

# Stories from the Skeleton

- Stress
- Congenital disease
- **Dental disease**
- **Metabolic & endocrine disease**
- Joint disease
- Infectious disease
- Neoplastic disease
- Trauma



Dental caries



Rickets

# Stories from the Skeleton

- Stress
- Congenital disease
- Dental disease
- Metabolic & endocrine disease
- **Joint disease**
- **Infectious disease**
- Neoplastic disease
- Trauma



Osteoarthritis



Hansen's disease



# Stories from the Skeleton

- Stress
- Congenital disease
- Dental disease
- Metabolic & endocrine disease
- Joint disease
- Infectious disease
- **Neoplastic disease**
- **Trauma**



Osteosarcoma



Blunt force trauma

# Stories from the Skeleton

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- Osteobiography: life and deathways

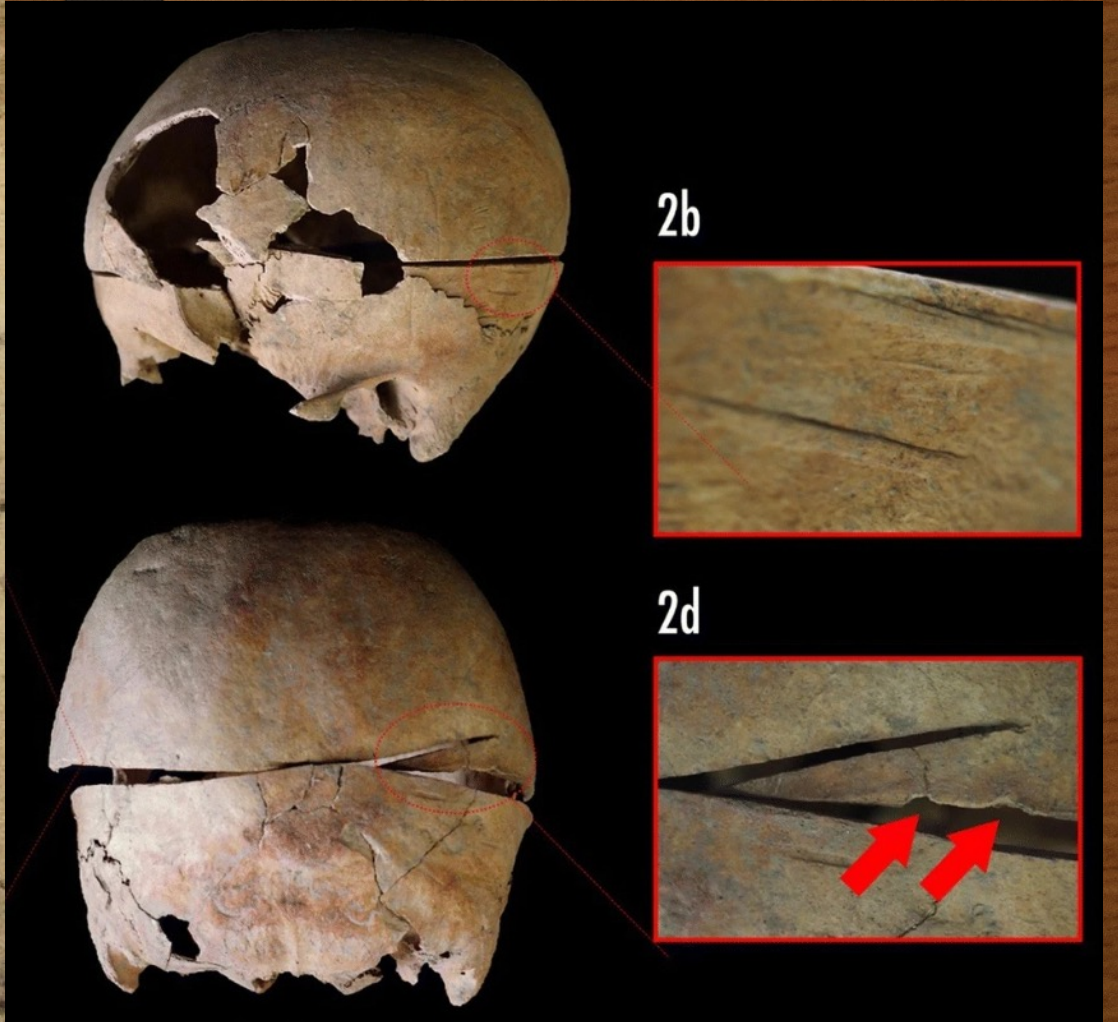


Pipe facet

# Stories from the Skeleton

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- (1) A skeleton is not simply a snapshot of an individual at the end of their life, but the result of accumulated and intersecting identities and experiences throughout their life course.
- (2) The dead do not bury themselves.



2b

2d

# Paper Bodies

Accidents, &c

Accid.	Lacerat <sup>n</sup> hand	John Burt
do	Do	John Booth
Chap.	Sprained Ankle	Eliz. Young
Accid.	Lacerated Foot	James Higgins
do	Fract. & Arm	Samuel Capo
do	Bruised Hip	James Price
do	Scalded Foot	Mich. Condol
Job		John Cody

19<sup>th</sup>-century Guy's Hospital Admission Register

60

A

REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF A RECRUIT  
30th Regt. B. C. Horse

Name in full	George Amosby		
Where born	Ireland		
Age	30		
Single or Married	Married		
Family, if any,	Two children		
Where have you last resided (Town)?	Lambly		
Height	6-0 1/2	Weight	165-
Chest measurements: Normal	36	Expanded	38
Contracted	35-		
Teeth	Good		
Heart and Lungs	Normal		
Enlarged Glands	No		
Hemorrhoids	No		
Varicoel	No		
Skin Disease	No		

Marks: (For identification purposes) *scar left side of chest*


*Inoculated  
1 Injection (one) Oct 31/14  
St. Reginald  
Institution*

First World War Medical Exam

MEMENTO MORI

**LONDON'S Dreadful Visitation:**  
Or, A COLLECTION of All the  
**Bills of Mortality**  
For this Present Year:  
Beginning the 20<sup>th</sup> of Decem<sup>r</sup> 1664. and  
ending the 19<sup>th</sup> of December following:  
As also, The **GENERAL** or whole years **BILL**:  
According to the Report made to the  
KING'S Most Excellent Majesty,  
By the Company of Parish-Clerks of London, &c

*The Diseases and Casualties this Week,*



<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>A Bortive</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Aged</td><td style="text-align: right;">43</td></tr> <tr><td>Ague</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Apoplexie</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Bleeding</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Burnt in his Bed by a Candle at St. Giles Cripplegate</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Canker</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Childbed</td><td style="text-align: right;">42</td></tr> <tr><td>Chilomes</td><td style="text-align: right;">18</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumption</td><td style="text-align: right;">134</td></tr> <tr><td>Convulsion</td><td style="text-align: right;">64</td></tr> <tr><td>Cough</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Dropic</td><td style="text-align: right;">33</td></tr> <tr><td>Feaver</td><td style="text-align: right;">309</td></tr> <tr><td>Flox and Small-pox</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Frighted</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Gowt</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Grief</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Griping in the Guts</td><td style="text-align: right;">51</td></tr> </table>	A Bortive	5	Aged	43	Ague	2	Apoplexie	1	Bleeding	2	Burnt in his Bed by a Candle at St. Giles Cripplegate	1	Canker	1	Childbed	42	Chilomes	18	Consumption	134	Convulsion	64	Cough	2	Dropic	33	Feaver	309	Flox and Small-pox	5	Frighted	3	Gowt	1	Grief	3	Griping in the Guts	51	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Jaundies</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Impothume</td><td style="text-align: right;">11</td></tr> <tr><td>Infants</td><td style="text-align: right;">16</td></tr> <tr><td>Killed by a fall from the Bel- frey at Alhallowes the Great</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Kingsevil</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Lechary</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Palfie</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Plague</td><td style="text-align: right;">716</td></tr> <tr><td>Rickets</td><td style="text-align: right;">17</td></tr> <tr><td>Rising of the Lights</td><td style="text-align: right;">11</td></tr> <tr><td>Scouring</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Scurvy</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Spleen</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Spotted Feaver</td><td style="text-align: right;">101</td></tr> <tr><td>Stillborn</td><td style="text-align: right;">17</td></tr> <tr><td>Stone</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Stopping of the stomach</td><td style="text-align: right;">9</td></tr> <tr><td>Strangury</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Suddenly</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Surfeit</td><td style="text-align: right;">49</td></tr> <tr><td>Teeth</td><td style="text-align: right;">121</td></tr> <tr><td>Thrush</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Timpany</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Tifick</td><td style="text-align: right;">11</td></tr> <tr><td>Vomiting</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Winde</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Wormes</td><td style="text-align: right;">15</td></tr> </table>	Jaundies	5	Impothume	11	Infants	16	Killed by a fall from the Bel- frey at Alhallowes the Great	1	Kingsevil	2	Lechary	1	Palfie	1	Plague	716	Rickets	17	Rising of the Lights	11	Scouring	5	Scurvy	2	Spleen	1	Spotted Feaver	101	Stillborn	17	Stone	2	Stopping of the stomach	9	Strangury	1	Suddenly	1	Surfeit	49	Teeth	121	Thrush	5	Timpany	1	Tifick	11	Vomiting	3	Winde	3	Wormes	15
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Christned	{	Males	95		}		
		Females	81				
		In all	176				
		Increased in the Burials this Week				607	
		Parishes clear of the Plague		4		Parishes Infected	
						126	

Plague—716

Males—4095 }  
Females—4202 }  
In all—8297 }

*The Assize of Bread set forth by Order of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen,  
A penny Wheaten Loaf to contain Nine Ounces and a half, and three  
half-penny White Loaves the like weight.*

# Paper Bodies

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- (1) Each trace of an individual in the archives is a snapshot at a particular moment in time, refracted through many lenses.
- (2) The dead do not write about themselves.

# Bones & Books

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- How can we better understand the effects of institutionalization upon health?



# Robert J. Terry Anatomical Collection

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- 1728 adults (>18 years)
- Died between 1910-1967
- Unclaimed poor → non-consensual amassment
- Documented: age, sex, social race, date & cause of death, place of death, anthropometrics, bio/pathological data

Structural violence and institutionalized individuals: A paleopathological perspective on a continuing issue

Carlina de la Cova<sup>1</sup>, Madeleine Mant<sup>2\*</sup>, Megan B. Brickley<sup>3</sup>

# Institutionalization & Hip Fractures

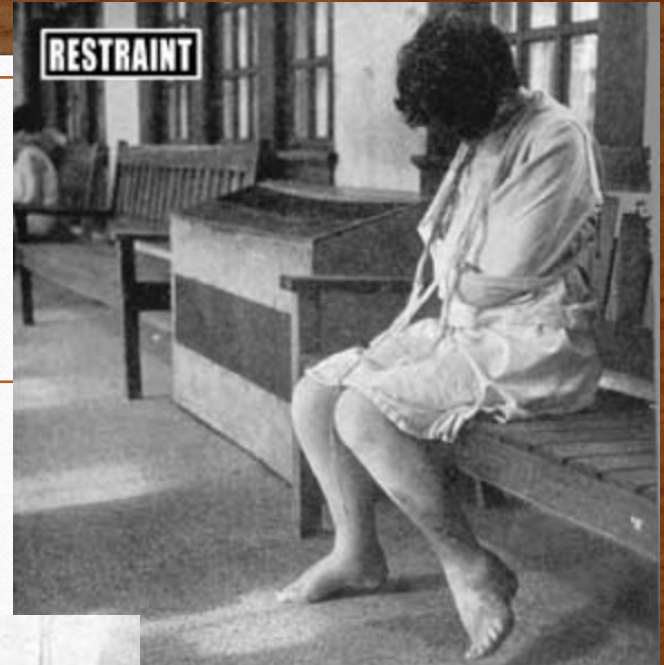
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- N = 600, born between 1822 and 1877
- Skeletal analysis (hip fracture presence/absence)
- Documentary analysis (morgue record, death record)
- Average age: 70.1 years
- 218 individuals were institutionalized
- **Higher frequency of hip fractures in institutionalized group**
- 17/40 were perimortem

**NEGLECT**



**RESTRAINT**



“Bedlam, 1946”  
Albert Maisal  
LIFE Magazine

**OVERCROWDING**



# Preventable Deaths

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- “Struck down to the floor by another patient.”
- “Fell from [her] wheelchair at the City Infirmary.”
- Fell “while attempting to remove a chair from in front of her door.”
- “Fell to [the] floor at City Infirmary while going to the bathroom.”

**Analysis of Bone Healing in a Postoperative Patient: Skeletal Evidence of Medical Neglect and Human Rights Violations<sup>†</sup>**

**Their mother had identical fractures in both legs when she died. How did no one at her Oakville nursing home see or hear anything?**



Vanity  
of Vanities,  
all is Vanity  
*Eccle. I. 2.*  
Dust thou art,  
and unto Dust  
thalt thou re-  
turn. *Gen. III. 19.*  
Then shall the  
Dust return to the  
Earth, as it was;  
and the Spirit  
shall return unto  
God who gave it.  
*Eccle. XII. 7.*  
Tremble, ye  
Women that are at  
ease. *Isa. XXXII. 9.*  
She that liveth  
in pleasure, is dead  
while she liveth.  
*1 Tim. V. 6.*  
O that they were wife,  
that they understood  
this, that they would  
consider their latter end!  
*Psalm. XLIX. 20.*  
For what is your life?  
It is even a vapour that  
appeareth for a little time,  
and then vanisheth away.  
*Job. VII. 14.*  
I have fed to corruption,  
Thou art my Father, to the Worm,  
Thou art my Mother,  
and my Sister. *Job. XIII. 14.*  
Like Sheep they are laid in the  
Grave, Death shall feed on them  
their Beauty shall consume  
in the Grave — the House  
appointed for all living —  
to be laid in the Balance  
they are altogether  
lighter than vanity. *Psalm. XLIX. 14.*  
*Job. XXXI. 26.*  
Because the Daughters  
of Zion are haughty,  
and walk with swollen  
eyes — the Lord will  
take away their  
tinkling ornaments  
and instead of  
sweet fennel, there  
shall be flunk.  
*Isa. III. 16. 24.*  
*Com. Prayer.*

FAVOUR is DECEITFUL, and BEAUTY is VAIN. *Prov. XXXI. 30.*

One Night *CORNYLIA* was all  
gay in her Spirits, all Fancy in her apparel,  
at a magnificent Ball. The next Night, the by path  
and hill, an extended Corpse, and ready to be  
mangled with the mouldering dead. *How. 1. 1. 1.*  
How lovel, how valued once, now, They not,  
To whom a Lust, or by whom begot,  
A heap of Dust, show remains of Three  
Treat, TROT, and all the PROUD shall be!  
LIFE how short! ETERNITY how long!

Now get you to my Lady's table, and tell her, let her point an inch thick in  
this complexion, the most cause of fall, *How. 1. 1. 1.*

# Newfoundland and Labrador



Digital Archives Initiative courtesy of the Centre for Newfoundland Studies, Memorial University Libraries.



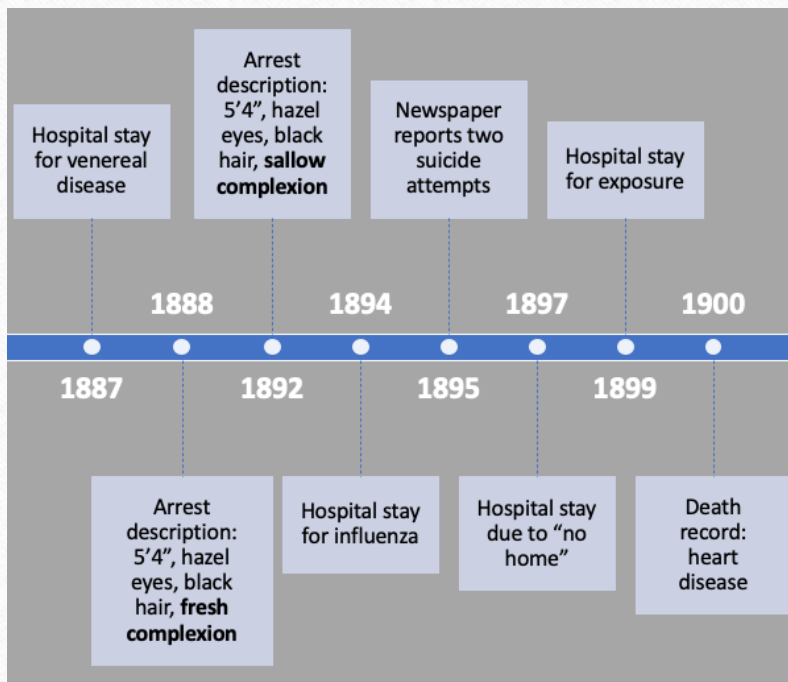
St. John's General Hospital



Her Majesty's Penitentiary



## Fanny Baker, 36, single, no home.



FANNY BAKER AGAIN - The poor creature according to her own story had not eaten a morsel of food since her liberation from the penitentiary Saturday. She was in an awful state from Hunger and Exposure to the chill air of Sunday night, her face which was badly swollen, being purpled from cold, while so weak was she that she had to be carried to Linegar's house where warm drinks were given her, though she couldn't eat.

The St. John's Enterprise, September 15, 1897

- 
- Ephraim Taktos
  - 1880-1884
  - Isolation
  - Institutions, colonialism, health

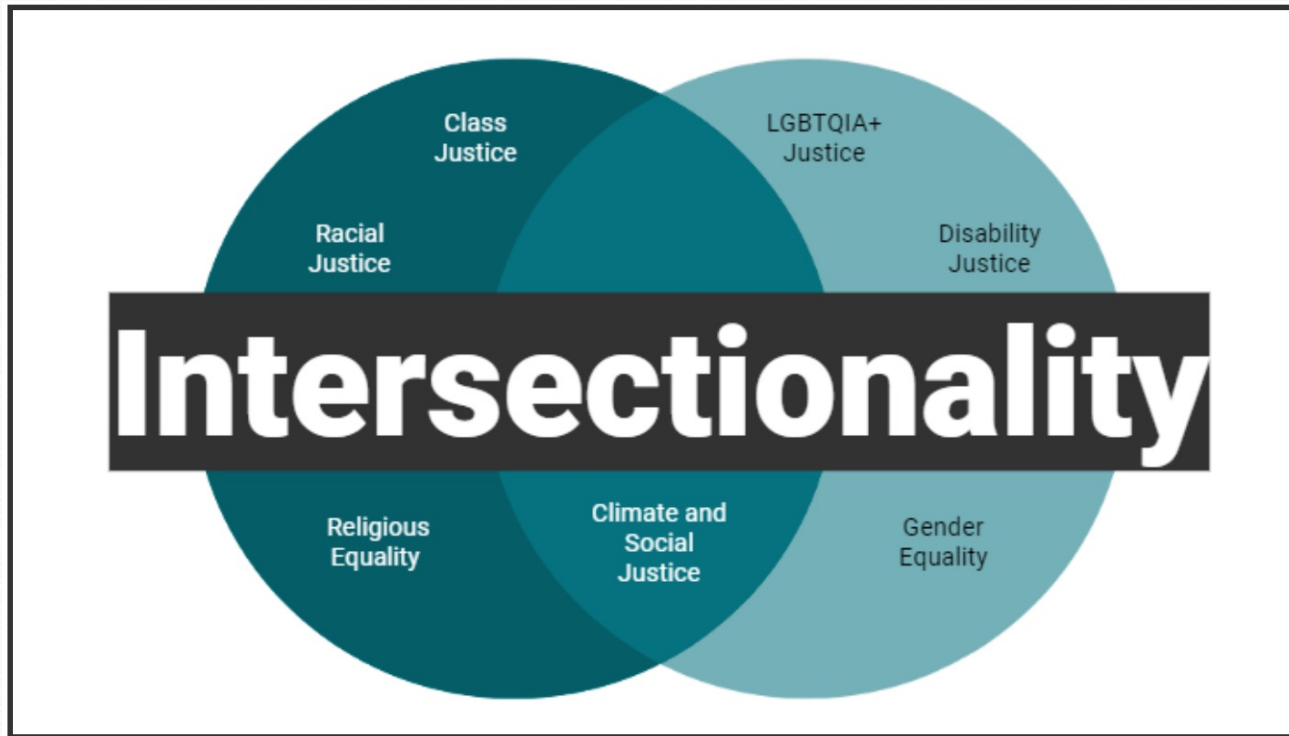
# Ephraim Taktos

## **LOCAL VARIETIES.**

DON'T forget the Concert in the Athenæum Hall this evening.

EPHRAIM TAKTOS, the Esquimaux, who was serving out a life-sentence in the Penitentiary for the murder of another Esquimaux, near the Moravian settlements, died this morning of consumption, from which he was ailing for eighteen months past. He was 37 years old. He was first committed to the Penitentiary on the 24th November, 1880 ; was tried at a special term of the Supreme Court, which opened on the 10th of August, 1881, was convicted, and sentenced to be hanged, which sentence was subsequently commuted to imprisonment for life, principally owing to a doubt as to whether the location of the spot where the crime was committed came within the jurisdiction of our Government.

# Intersectionality





# Acknowledgements

- London Metropolitan Archives
- Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History (David Hunt)
- National Archives, UK
- Her Majesty's Penitentiary Museum & Archives (Dave Harvey)
- The Rooms, Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (Greg Walsh, Melanie Tucker, Craig Tucker)
- Dr. Carlina de la Cova, Dr. Megan Brickley
- Dr. Shannon Hodge, Dr. Andrew Wyatt



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